

Message Text

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11

ACTION EUR-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5730

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

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AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL MILAN

AMCONSUL NAPLES

AMCONSUL FLORENCE UNN

AMCONSUL GENOA UNN

AMCONSUL PALERMO UNN

AMCONSUL TRIESTE UNN

AMCONSUL TURIN UNN

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SUBJECT: LABOR REACTIONS TO GOVERNMENTAL MEASURES

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1. LABOR'S RESPONSE TO GOVERNMENTAL AUSTERITY MEASURES IS INCREASINGLY NEGATIVE. FEDERATION CGIL-CISL-UIL (CCU) HAS CALLED A SERIES OF FOUR-HOUR REGIONAL GENERAL STRIKES IN PROTEST AGAINST MEASURES. FIRST OF SERIES WILL BE ON JULY 5 IN GENOA REGION. OTHERS SCHEDULED FOR JULY 9 (VALLE D'AOSTA, PIEDMONT, TUSCANY, SICILY AND LIGURIA); JULY 10 (FRIULI-VENEZIA GIULIA, LOMBARDY, CAMPANIA AND LAZIO); JULY 11 (UMBRIA, PUGLIA, SARDINIA, BASILICATA, TRENTINO-ALTO ADIGE); JULY 12 (VENETO, EMILIA ROMAGNA, MARCHE, ABRUZZO AND MOLISE); AND JULY 15 (CALABRIA). (LAND, SEA AND AIR TRANSPORT WORKERS WILL NOT PARTICIPATE. REASON: THEY HAVE THEIR OWN STRIKES GOING). THESE STEPS BEING TAKEN EVEN BEFORE SITTING DOWN WITH GOVERNMENT TO DISCUSS THE SITUATION. THIS HAS ELICITED SHARP CRITICISM FROM SCALIA-LED CISL MINORITY. LONG-DELAYED "SUMMIT" MEETING WITH GOVERNMENT TAKES PLACE TOMORROW, JULY 4.

2. IN ADDITION, AND NOT DIRECTLY RELATED TO CCU ACTIONS, THE SERIES OF TWO-DAY SHUTDOWNS OF NEWSPAPERS IS PROCEEDING REGIONALLY. THESE STRIKES ARE BEING CALLED BY JOURNALISTS AND PRINTERS UNIONS IN FAVOR OF "REFORMS IN THE INFORMATION MEDIA," I.E., IN PROTEST AGAINST THE CONCENTRATION OF DAILY PRESS OWNERSHIP.

3. CISL SECRETARY GENERAL STORTI, SPEAKING BEFORE CISL GENERAL ASSEMBLY NOW IN SESSION, HAS ADDED HIS VOICE IN CRITICISM OF GOVERNMENT PROGRAM, CALLING IT "INEPT". THE CISL MINORITY, HEADED BY VITO SCALIA, HAS PRESENTED GENERAL ASSEMBLY WITH A 14-PAGE DOCUMENT WHICH IS BEING DEBATED TODAY AND TOMORROW. AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE MINORITY DOCUMENT CALLS FOR AN END TO WAVE OF STRIKES, AND FOR JOINING HANDS WITH OTHER NATIONAL ELEMENTS TO MASTER ITALY'S CURRENT ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES.

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH CCU PRONOUNCEMENTS CRITICAL OF GOVERNMENT ARE NOT PARTICULARLY HEATED, SERIES OF STRIKE ACTIONS HARDLY PROPITIOUS FOR ENLISTING NEEDED LABOR SUPPORT IN NATIONAL EFFORT WHICH CURRENT PROBLEMS REQUIRE. IT IS TRUE THAT CERTAIN CONSTITUENT UNIONS, NOTABLY METAL WORKERS, HAVE BEEN MORE OUTSPOKEN IN THEIR ATTACKS ON GOVERNMENT PROGRAM AND HAVE CALLED FOR NATIONAL GENERAL STRIKES. TO THAT EXTENT, CCU ACTIONS MAY BE REGARDED AS BEING RELATIVELY MODERATE. VOLPE

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